



JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

1100 E. William Street, Suite 101
Carson City, Nevada 89701
(775) 684-3600

MICHAEL J. WILLDEN
Director

CHARLES DUARTE
Administrator

August 30, 2010

Kerry Crawford Branick
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health & Human Services
330 C Street SW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Ms. Branick:

The Nevada Division of Health Care Financing & Policy (DHCFP) is the State Medicaid and SCHIP agency and administers these programs under the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the single state agency for them. DHCFP has already been an active participant in the planning activities for the establishment of Nevada's HIE infrastructure and capabilities, to meet HITECH requirements for Medicaid and Nevada's HIE Cooperative Agreement. This will continue during the implementation phase.

Appointed by Governor Gibbons, I am a member of the Nevada Health Information Technology Blue Ribbon Task Force. Comprised of key stakeholders and industry leaders, the Task Force provides oversight and guidance on the planning and implementation of HIT/E in our state, and the State HIT Coordinator and I provide regular updates regarding our respective HITECH-funded activities. In addition, DHCFP staff provide subject matter expertise to the Task Force and to the State HIT Coordinator, and serve on Task Force subcommittees supporting the state's HIT/E efforts. It is a given that Nevada Medicaid will be a participating member of the to-be-determined state HIE governance structure, once it is established.

HIT/E coordination and collaboration between DHCFP, the State HIT Coordinator and the Nevada REC are ongoing, and supported by the Task Force and DHHS Director. The recently completed Nevada HIT Statewide Assessment was a joint effort between DHCFP and the State HIT Coordinator, with support from Nevada's REC, to complete the CMS-required landscape assessment and ONC-required environmental scan. Combining these activities into a single effort, using the same vendor, was cost-effective, ensures consistent data results for both HIT strategic plans, and identifies more opportunities for joint collaboration, particularly in the area of provider outreach and education regarding EHR adoption, meeting meaningful use requirements, and the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

The State HIT Coordinator participated in the development of the approved DHCFP HIT Planning Advanced Planning Document. That same individual served on the selection panel that evaluated the responses to our RFP for the State Medicaid HIT Plan and Implementation – Advanced Planning Document project. Nevada Medicaid's HIE will be an integral part of the state's HIE infrastructure, and DHCFP and the State HIT Coordinator are coordinating and collaborating on the development of our required HIT strategic and implementation plans. This effort is continuous, to ensure alignment between statewide and Medicaid HIT/E goals and objectives.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Duarte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Duarte" clearly distinguishable.

Charles Duarte
Administrator

Cc: Chris Muir, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Lynn O'Mara, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services